

Remarks

In the present response, claims 1-4, 9-10, 12, and 14 are pending for examination.

I. Claims Rejection: 35 USC § 102(e)

Claims 1, 2, 9, 10, and 14 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by USPN 6,889,927 (Gavit). These rejections are traversed.

The claims recite numerous elements that are not taught or suggested in Gavit. Some examples for the independent claims are provided.

By way of example, the independent claims recite a hub and a pair of flanges separated by the hub. The securing mechanism is “formed in the pair of flanges.” By contrast, the securing mechanism in Gavit is formed in the receiver block, not the two flanges. Specifically, Gavit shows a take-up reel 30 having a hub 40 and a receiver block 46. As noted in the Office Action, the receiver block 46 includes a securing mechanism 74/75 and 102/104 in the form of a spring and bearings. The securing mechanism in Gavit, however, is not formed in the flanges.

Anticipation under section 102 can be found only if a single reference shows exactly what is claimed (see *Titanium Metals Corp. v. Banner*, 778 F.2d 775, 227 U.S.P.Q. 773 (Fed. Cir. 1985)). For at least these reasons, the independent claims and their respective dependent claims are allowable over Gavit.

II. Claims Rejection: 35 USC § 103(a)

Claims 3, 4, and 12 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 6,889,927 (Gavit) in view of USPN 4,709,873 (Smith). These rejections are traversed.

The claims recite numerous elements that are not taught or suggested in Gavit in view of Smith. Some examples for the independent claims are provided.

By way of example, the independent claims recite a hub and a pair of flanges separated by the hub. The securing mechanism is “formed in the pair of flanges.” By contrast, the securing mechanism in Gavit is formed in the receiver block, not the two flanges. Specifically, Gavit shows a take-up reel 30 having a hub 40 and a receiver block 46. As noted in the Office Action, the receiver block 46 includes a securing mechanism

74/75 and 102/104 in the form of a spring and bearings. The securing mechanism in Gavit, however, is not formed in the flanges.

Smith teaches take-up reel 19 having a hub 19A and a plate 19d. As shown in figure 2 of Smith, a leaf spring 106 and its keeper 108 are placed in a cavity 102 of the plate 19d. The leaf spring 106 in Smith is not formed in the flanges of the take-up reel.

For at least these reasons, the independent claims and their respective dependent claims are allowable over Gavit in view of Smith.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Any inquiry regarding this Amendment and Response should be directed to Philip S. Lyren at Telephone No. 832-236-5529. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

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Respectfully submitted,

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